

# MEDIA ACCESS OFFICE NEWS



## Disability Resource to the Entertainment Industry

### M.A.O. MEMBER APPEARANCES



#### Codes:

AL-Leg Amputee	B-Blind
CP-Cerebral Palsy	D-Deaf
DD-Developmental Disability	
Ds-Down syndrome	HI-Hearing Impaired
ID-Invisible Disability	LP-Little Person
MI-Mobility Impaired	O-Other
VI-Visually Impaired	WU-Wheelchair User

#### M.A.O. MEMBERS AND OTHER KNOWN PWDs WHO ARE SERIES REGULARS/RECURRING

**Michael J. Anderson (LP)** as Samson  
"Carnivale" - HBO

**Brandon Bauer (Ds)** as Abel  
"Kingdom Hospital" - ABC

**Deanne Bray (D)** as Sue Thomas  
"Sue Thomas F.B. Eye" - PAX

**Jennifer Cunningham (Ds)** as Crista  
"Kingdom Hospital" - ABC

**Robert David Hall (AL)** as Coroner Dr. Robbins  
"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" - CBS

**Anita Hollander (AL)** as Shelley  
"All My Children" - ABC

**Geri Jewell (CP)** as Jewel  
"Deadwood" - HBO

**Mitch Longley (WU)** as Barry "Bear" Caldwell  
"Joan of Arcadia" - CBS  
and as Surveillance Team Member Mitch  
"Las Vegas" - NBC

generation of a deaf family. She grew up in Fremont, CA, and attended the California School for the Deaf, Fremont, where both her parents worked and her two siblings attended. Upon graduation, her family relocated to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Shoshannah attended Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, the only liberal arts university for deaf people in the world. There she pursued her love of theater, winning numerous awards for her performances, and continued to dream - as she had since she was a child - of becoming a professional actor. During the winter recess of her senior year at Gallaudet, she received a random e-mail from Warner Bros. asking her to audition for a guest-starring role on the series *Off Centre*. On a whim, she flew to Los Angeles, auditioned, and subsequently got the role. This led to guest-starring roles on such television series as *Providence*, *Boston Public*, *ER*, *The Division*, and a cameo in the upcoming feature film, *Providence*. It was her role on *The Division* that led to her role on *Threat Matrix*.

### THEATRE APPEARANCES

#### 'Longing For Light'

**Where:** Dance Mission, on 24th St. at Mission,  
San Francisco

**Dates:** May 27-30, 2004

M.A.O. member **Maia Scott (B)** will be performing as part of the Sun and Moon Ensemble in this full-length movement and theater piece incorporating archetypes, masks, giant puppets, and live music. Maia also did a spoken word piece at Broadway Studios' Open Mic night on 4/24. For more info, check out [www.sunandmoonensemble.org](http://www.sunandmoonensemble.org).

#### 'The Shadow Box'

**Where:** Secret Rose Theatre, 11246 Magnolia  
North Hollywood

**Dates:** April 16, 2004 - May 23, 2004

**Info/Reservations:** Phone (818) 754-1536 or e-mail  
[LostinLATheatre@aol.com](mailto:LostinLATheatre@aol.com)

M.A.O. member **Danny Murphy (WU)** is featured in this Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning drama about families and significant others coming to terms with the inevitable loss of a loved one.

### 'Regulars' Bios

[Note: This is the first in a new series that will highlight those MAO members or PWDs who are series regulars or have recurring television roles. Bios are reprinted from the show's Web sites or have been provided by the actors. Although Shoshannah's show, *Threat Matrix*, is not currently airing, we thought it would be great to feature her anyway.]

Shoshannah Stern was born in Walnut Creek, California. Along with her brother and sister, she represents the fourth

## Congratulations to M.A.O. Members

**David Roche (O)**, for his one-man show **The Church of 80% Sincerity**, which ran 4/30/04-5/1/04 at the Larkspur Café Theatre. **Linda and Jessica Storey (WU)** for their singing engagements in Colorado and their upcoming month-long tour in June. **Guy Christmas (VI)** continues to appear on the nationally syndicated **Joe Franklin Radio Show**. NY member **Sujeet Desai (Ds)**, who plays four musical instruments, is performing May 18-22, 2004, at the Canadian Down Syndrome convention in St. Johns, Canada, and May 27-30, 2004, at the Self-Advocacy nationwide conference in Anaheim. Sujeet just returned from the 8<sup>th</sup> World Down syndrome Congress in Singapore, where he won the prestigious International "Honour & Pride Award." For Sujeet's complete performing schedule, check his Web site at [www.sujeet.com](http://www.sujeet.com). **Jody Lee Olhava (MI)** will premiere the first film she has directed, **Mamochka**, at the Thunderbird Film Festival, in Cedar City, Utah, on June 5, 2005. For info: [www.thunderbirdfilmfestival.suu.edu](http://www.thunderbirdfilmfestival.suu.edu). If anyone would like free VIP tickets to attend the festival, contact Judy at [jlolha@irisfilmintl.com](mailto:jlolha@irisfilmintl.com). **Pamela Walker (WU)** had an interview/article about her work as a sex educator published in a Web magazine: <http://www.360mag.com/home.cfm>. The BBC documentary about her, **Wounded Healer**, also just won an Award of Excellence and will be shown in Berkeley on June 5<sup>th</sup> as part of Superfest Disability Film Festival. The film **Julia's Body** won Superfest's Best of Festival and features MAO members **Lee Williams (WU)**, **Stephanie Miyashiro (WU)**, **Neal Marcus (CP/WU)**, and **Afi-Tiombe Kambon (AL)**. For more info on Superfest: [www.madknight.com/cdt/index.htm](http://www.madknight.com/cdt/index.htm).

**Reminder to All M.A.O. Members** – We would like to have your appearances in film, television, theatre, etc. mentioned in the newsletter in a **timely** fashion. Please call the office or email [DGordy@edd.ca.gov](mailto:DGordy@edd.ca.gov) with your info by the **third week of the month prior to the month in which you will appear**.

## SCDD Poster Contest

A great opportunity for artists with developmental disabilities to promote their artwork is the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities' third poster art contest. The 2004 contest theme is "Yes, I Can!" Submitted artwork should illustrate that individuals with developmental disabilities CAN live independently, exert control and choice over their own lives, and fully participate in all aspects of community life. The contest is open to all Californians with developmental disabilities who meet the eligibility requirements. Prizes will be offered. The deadline for submissions is June 20th. Please review the Web site at [www.scdd.ca.gov/Poster\\_Contest.htm](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/Poster_Contest.htm) or by the following: Phone - (916) 322-8481, Fax - (916) 443-4957, or e-mail - [scdd@dss.ca.gov](mailto:scdd@dss.ca.gov).

## HOLLYWOOD NETWORKING BREAKFAST

**SPECIAL GUEST: Writer/Producer Bo Zenga**, back by popular demand, speaks at the Hollywood Networking Breakfast™, just as **MGM** releases his latest feature, **Soul Plane**, as its big summer movie. One of the most popular speakers at the HNB, Bo Zenga has repeatedly been listed as one of the "**100 People You Need to Know in Hollywood**." Bo is a favorite of the "A List" and most recently wrote and produced the comedy feature, **Soul Plane**, which stars **Snoop Dogg**, **Mo'Nique**, and **Tom Arnold**. Bo also executive produced the teen horror spoof, **Scary Movie**, for Dimension/Miramax. He has numerous projects in various stages of development/production to which he is attached to executive produce, produce, and/or write, including **Succession**, a film project he is developing based on an Oliver Stone political thriller. Charismatic, candid, and a masterful storyteller, a Bo Zenga breakfast is not to be missed!

**Thursday, May 27, 2004, 8 AM-10:30 AM, Wyndham Bel Age Hotel, 1020 N. San Vicente, West Hollywood, CA 90069.** Check-in starts at 7:20 AM. On-time reservations: **\$25** per person. Checks must be postmarked by 5/20/04 to be considered "on-time." Make checks payable to: **Changing Images in America**, P.O. Box 2688, Hollywood, CA 90078, phone **(310) 477-0996, ext. 3**. Your check is your confirmation. You **MUST** list your contact phone number and the names of all guests who are included on your check. For additional breakfast guidelines and policies, including late reservations and walk-ins, log on to: [www.changingimagesinamerica.org](http://www.changingimagesinamerica.org).

## Acting Classes with MAO Instructor

Actor, Teacher, and Casting Director David Zimmerman, who has taught at MAO, will be teaching a four-week class this June in Santa Monica at:

ACCESSIBLE  
1623 Stanford Street  
Santa Monica, CA

**When:** Classes will be on Wednesdays, June 2, 9, 16, and Tuesday June 22.  
**Time:** 7 PM to 10 PM  
**Cost:** \$50 for all four classes total. (This is a special rate for MAO Members.)

### Space is limited!

To sign up for the class call David at (323) 868-9913. Please mail your check for \$50 to:  
David S. Zimmerman  
137 N. Larchmont Blvd. #518  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
Attn: Summer Class

## FLASH FORWARD Career Intensive

Flash Forward (FF) is a unique, intensive one-month career coaching program specially designed to support anyone, at any level in the entertainment industry to move their career forward NOW. Participants learn how to create breakthroughs and keep career-momentum moving. All FF participants receive group and personalized coaching support. Learn and practice powerful marketing tools. Barbara Schiffman will lead the May FF INTENSIVE with a special focus on WRITERS, PRODUCERS and DIRECTORS. Barbara is an active script consultant for feature and TV/cable film producers and agencies plus a life and career coach for entertainment industry pros.

**When:** Sat./Sun. 5/15/04 and 5/16/04, plus 5 Wednesday nights from 5/19/04 through 6/16/04.

**Where:** Burbank location (Barbara's home).

**Cost:** \$450\* - Visa & MasterCard accepted [\* includes \$100 non-refundable deposit, transferable to next FF]. Call Barbara at (818) 848-9040, 9 AM-8 PM, Monday-Friday.

## Sprout Film Festival

The 2004 Sprout Film Festival, featuring 20 independent shorts, features, animations and documentaries related to the field of developmental disabilities, will take place on Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23, at the NYU Cantor Film Center, 36 E. Eighth St., NYC. The cost of each program is \$8 general, \$6 for students, seniors and people with disabilities. For info and to purchase tickets, visit the Web site: [www.SFF.GoSprout.org](http://www.SFF.GoSprout.org) or phone (888) 222-9575. People with developmental disabilities are rarely seen in films or on television. The festival aims to raise the profile of this population by showcasing educational, entertaining, and memorable works related to this field.

**M.A.O. Members – The office is compiling statistics and tracking results of auditions and work that Performers with Disabilities have done. It is VERY important that you call the Reporting Line when you have an audition or work.**

**REPORTING LINE**  
(818) 753-3425 (North Hollywood)  
(925) 602-1542 (M.A.O. North)

**Looking for information about us?**  
Get more info about the work of the **Friends of the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Inc.** and the Media Access Office at:  
[www.disabilityemployment.org](http://www.disabilityemployment.org)

or

[www.edd.cahwnet.gov/gcedpmedia.htm](http://www.edd.cahwnet.gov/gcedpmedia.htm)



## JOIN THE FUN & CHEER FOR YOUR FAVORITE COMIC!

**What:** 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NORMAN G. BROOKS  
M.A.O. STAND-UP COMEDY  
SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

**When:** Wednesday, June 23, 2004

**Where:** IMPROV   
8162 Melrose Avenue  
Hollywood, CA 90046

**Time:** Doors Open: 6:30PM  
Show: 7:30PM



*Tickets and additional info is available at (310) 388-4668.*

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE AT \$25 FOR MAO MEMBERS (IN ADVANCE), \$50 AT THE DOOR. VIP TICKETS AT \$100 (includes front row seating, complimentary parking, appetizers and drinks) and \$300 (includes everything at \$100 price, plus seating with the celebrity judges) also available.

*Do you have information for the Newsletter?  
Write, phone, or fax us at:*

**The Media Access Office**  
4640 Lankershim Blvd., Suite 305  
N. Hollywood, CA 91602  
(818) 752-1196 Voice (818) 753-3426 Fax  
(818) 753-3427 TTY

**Media Access Office – North**  
363 Civic Drive  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
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711 for CA Relay Service

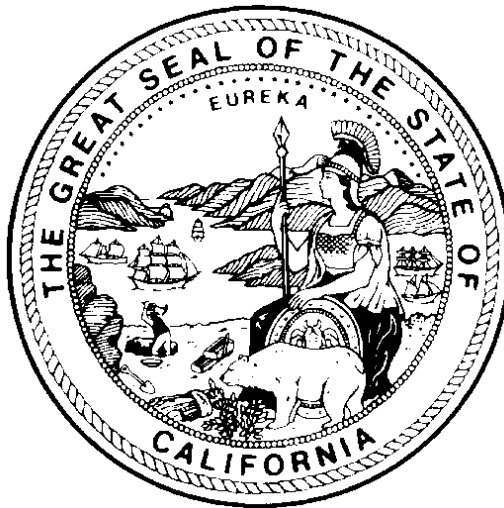
**REACH US VIA E-MAIL:**

Gloria M. Castañeda – [GCastane@edd.ca.gov](mailto:GCastane@edd.ca.gov)  
(Send Gloria an e-mail if you would like to receive last minute M.A.O. information or announcements via e-mail.)

Dr. Douglas Gordy (M.A.O. North) – [DGordy@edd.ca.gov](mailto:DGordy@edd.ca.gov)

*The Media Access Office is staffed by the Employment Development Department and the California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Volunteers and in-kind donations provided through the Friends of the CGCEPD, Inc., support the office.❖*

*May 2004*



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**NORMAN M. OWEN, ESQ.  
CHAIR**

**CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT  
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**CATHERINE KELLY BAIRD  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT  
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

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